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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

May we remember each morning, O loving God, to be grateful for all Your good gifts to us and to all people and remind us during all the hours of the day to have hearts of thanksgiving. At our best moments we know that the gifts of thanksgiving and gratitude are at the center of our humanity and Holy Scripture commends these virtues as marks of a healthy life. With all the duties that are before us and with all the responsibilities that never quite get done, we pray that we will never forget the practice of prayer, praise, and thanksgiving. May we not neglect to begin each day and to commence each responsibility with grateful hearts and sensitive spirits. In Your name, we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Colorado [Mr. HEFLEY] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. HEFLEY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a concurrent resolution of the House of the following title:

H. Con. Res. 67. Concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for the fiscal years 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2002.

The message also announced that the Senate insists upon its amendment to the resolution (H. Con. Res. 67) "Concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for the fiscal years 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2002", and requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. LOTT, Mr. BROWN, Mr. GORTON, Mr. GREGG, Mr. EXON, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. JOHNSTON, Mr. LAUTENBERG, and Mr. SIMON, to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair announces that there will be twenty 1-minutes on each side.

WHITE HOUSE DEMONSTRATION WILL DRAMATIZE NEED FOR ADMINISTRATION SANCTIONS ON CUBA

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, today at noon the Cuban-American community will hold a rally in front of the White House to protest the immoral policy of the Clinton administration of repatriating freedom-seeking

Cubans who escaped their homeland for liberty in the United States.

Through the accord, the Clinton administration once again has shown its foreign policy ineptitude, and specifically its lack of vision and effectiveness toward the formulation of a clear Cuba policy. Instead of supporting the desires for freedom for the Cuban people, the President has preferred to accept the empty promises from the ruler of a totalitarian state who promotes terrorism, and is about to finish construction of a potentially dangerous and unsafe nuclear powerplant just a few hundred miles from our shores. Yet, we hear only silence from the administration on these illicit acts by the Cuban dictator.

I hope that the President takes a look from the White House at today's demonstration, so he can listen to the voices of those Cubans who were forced to leave their country in search of freedom, and from those who suffered from the oppressive hand of the Cuban dictator. Maybe then the President will realize the diabolical consequences of his failed policy and join us in implementing new sanctions against the Cuban tyrant.

WHAT MASSIVE REPUBLICAN BUDGET CUTS MEAN TO RURAL MISSOURI

(Mr. VOLKMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, the Republicans say "Listen to me, listen to my words, but don't watch what I do." What I am alluding to is a budget, a Republican budget that passed the House and also the one that passed the Senate, with massive cuts in Medicare and Medicaid in order to give tax relief to the wealthy.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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What do these massive cuts for Medicare and Medicaid mean to rural Missouri, where I am from? It means loss, a huge loss in revenues for my hospitals. It means many of my senior citizens who are on a low income and Social Security will have to pay money they do not have in order to give tax cuts of \$20,000 for those who earn over \$250,000 a year. That is not right. That is not fair. That is mean-spirited.

We need rural hospitals in rural Missouri. We do not need them to be shut down because they want to give tax cuts to the wealthy. Mr. Speaker, think twice before you act.

HYPOCRISY ON ETHICS COMPLAINTS REGARDING BOOK ROYALTIES

(Mr. HEFLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, I listened yesterday with interest as the whining and moaning voices from the other side of the aisle criticized the Speaker of the House. What were they criticizing him for? He wrote a book. He was doing a book tour. Actually, he might get paid for that book. They acted like there was something unusual or unethical about what he was doing.

I would just ask, Mr. Speaker, where were those same voices in 1990, when Senator GORE received \$33,300 in book royalties? Where were they in 1991, when Senator GORE received \$66,700 in book royalties? Where were they in 1992, when Senator GORE took a 35-city book tour and received \$546,260 in book royalties? Where were they in 1993, when Vice President GORE received \$310.84 in book royalties?

There is a difference, however, Mr. Speaker. Senator GORE received a \$100,000 advance. Speaker GINGRICH received \$1. Stop the hypocrisy; it does not play well.

EXPRESSING PRIDE IN CAPTAIN O'GRADY AND HIS MARINE RESCUERS

(Mr. SKELTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, Americans awakened today to good news, the rescue of Capt. Scott O'Grady, the F-16 pilot whose plane was shot down last week by rebel Serbs over Bosnia. The successful mission was performed by the Marine Expeditionary Force, commanded by Col. Marty Berndt.

I share the pride in Captain O'Grady and the rescuing Marines that was so eloquently expressed earlier this morning by the President, our NATO Commander, Admiral Leighton Smith, and members of Captain O'Grady's family.

I had the pleasure, Mr. Speaker, of congratulating Colonel Berndt by telephone just a few moments ago. He was personally along on the rescue mission.

I have visited our troops participating in Operation Deny Flight, which includes an A-10 reserve wing from Whiteman Air Force Base in Missouri.

All Americans should be grateful for the courage and for the dedication to this dangerous mission. We must also continue to support those who risk their lives every day in training and combat, in peace and war. All Americans, Mr. Speaker, are proud of Captain O'Grady, the rescuing marines, and all who wear the American uniform.

GOOD NEWS

(Mr. GOSS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to continue on in the sentiment of the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. SKELTON] who has so eloquently expressed our pride this morning in our military. Indeed, it is a great pleasure to wake up to good news in the midst of all the trouble that we are experiencing in the Bosnia area.

According to the morning news reports, and as has been confirmed now, the American pilot downed in Bosnia has been rescued by American marines, and is safe aboard a United States ship. I am sure every American's heart sings to hear that news. This was a very risky rescue mission. It was extremely dangerous. It was no easy thing to do.

It took a lot of courage and professionalism, but the professionalism, team spirit, and perseverance of our military personnel, coupled with the grace of God, saw those marines through, and helped bring our young pilot out of danger, back to his family, and back to our shores.

With the commemorations of Memorial Day still fresh in our minds, this feat of bravery reminds us again the risks and sacrifices our men and women in uniform take every day. We wish the pilot and his family well, and we thank all the families of those brave young men and women who serve in our Armed Forces. They are always there when we need them. Thank God for them.

A SALUTE TO MARINE CAPT. SCOTT O'GRADY AND HIS RESCUERS

(Mr. GEPHARDT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to pay tribute to a remarkable act of courage that has taken place in the war-torn land of Bosnia.

I am talking about the rescue of Capt. Scott O'Grady, who had been missing for nearly a week, since his F-16 jet was shot down by the Bosnian Serbs.

Many had almost given up hope of Scott's return. But for 6 days, he survived on his own in the woods—and

stayed out of enemy hands—because of what one marine colonel called his “guts and his training.”

That is when an outstanding team of marines, led by Col. Martin Berndt, responded to his radio call, and braved fire from Serb forces to bring this American patriot back home.

Mr. Speaker, there are no words to express the gratitude of each and every American to Captain O'Grady, who placed his life on the line in the service of his country.

His valor, his perseverance, his cunning and skill in the toughest of circumstances are a tribute not just to the U.S. Marine Corps, but to America's fighting spirit itself.

As for his rescuers, I think it should be clear today that, as much as we need our weapons systems—as much as we need the sophisticated technology that keeps our troops safe and helps them do their jobs—the heart of our Armed Forces is the drive, the dedication, the determination of our men and women in uniform to do their best for America.

On behalf of every Member of this Congress, I salute them—I thank them—and I am grateful for the gift of Captain O'Grady's return to family and country.

PUT THE TAXPAYERS' INTERESTS FIRST: SUPPORT THE AMERICAN OVERSEAS INTERESTS ACT

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, today, the House will have an opportunity to vote for a foreign aid bill which, for the first time in nearly a half-century puts the interests of the American taxpayer first.

H.R. 1561 eliminates three major Government agencies and more than 20 low priority programs. It cuts \$3.7 billion from current spending over the next 2 years and it calls for savings of \$21 billion over the next 7 years.

The American Overseas Interests Act finally brings an end to the foreign policy status quo. It concentrates our limited resources on helping our friends to help themselves, it improves our global antiterrorism efforts and it strengthens our hand in the area of international narcotics control.

Mr. Speaker, Chairman GILMAN and the International Relations Committee have crafted a good bill—a bill which protects the interests of the American taxpayer and brings an end to the foreign aid status quo. I urge my colleagues to support the American Overseas Interests Act.

OVERSEAS INVESTMENT

(Mrs. SEASTRAND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SEASTRAND. Mr. Speaker, when is a spending cut a spending cut?